

Seattle's urban forest goal



Seattle's urban forest is a thriving and sustainable mix of tree and understory species and ages that creates a contiguous and healthy ecosystem that is valued by the City and all Seattle residents as an essential environmental, economic, and community asset.

Who owns the trees?

- **Public trees**
 - In developed parks and natural areas
 - In City property
 - Owned and managed by City government
- **Private trees**
 - On private property
 - City plays regulatory and supporting role
- **Street trees**
 - In the right-of-way
 - Managed cooperatively between Department of Transportation and adjacent property owners



Public and street trees

- **Plant thousands of trees each year**
 - Along streets
 - In parks
 - Supporting residential planting
- **Maintain hundreds of thousands of trees**
 - 100,000 trees in developed parklands
 - 40,000 of the 140,000 street trees
 - 500,000+ trees in natural areas
 - Utility line safety & reliability



City's role in private trees

- **Education & Incentives**
 - Outreach, brochures, website, events, etc.
 - Neighborhood tree planting program
 - Tree Ambassador program
- **Regulatory Protection**
 - Private property
 - Street right-of-way
 - Environmentally critical areas



City department roles

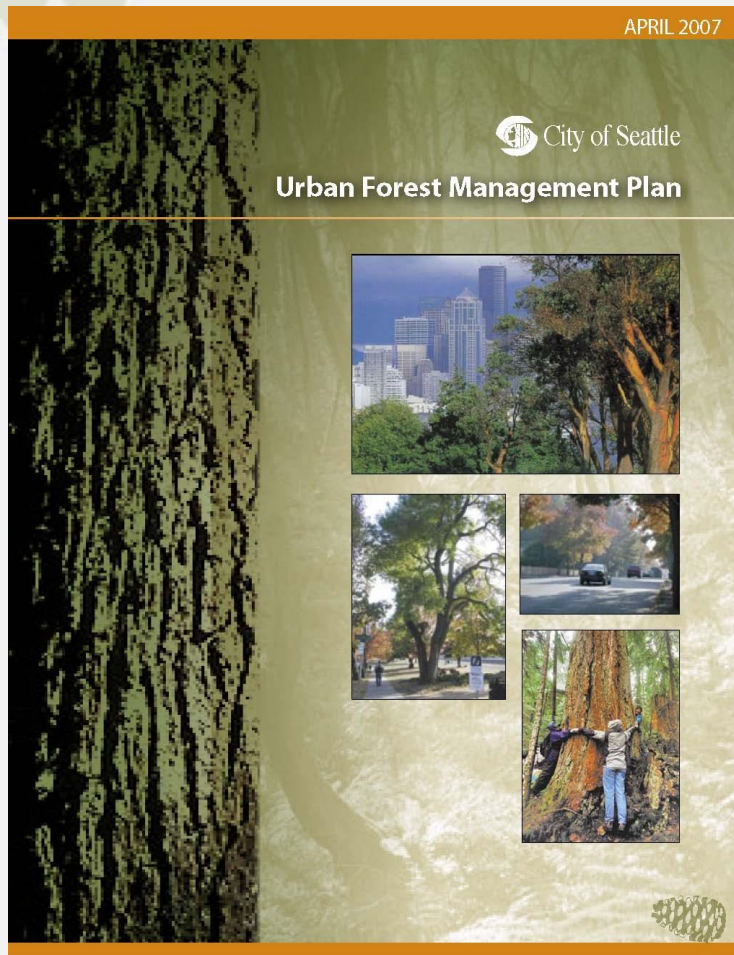
- **DPD** – regulates trees on private property
- **FAS** – manages trees in City properties
- **OSE** – convenes inter-departmental team, coordinates policy issues, monitors performance, staff Urban Forestry Commission
- **Parks** – plants/cares for trees, restores natural areas
- **SCL** – prunes trees for electrical compatibility, safety, and reliability and funds planting incentives
- **SDOT** – plants/cares for trees, regulates street trees
- **Seattle Center & Zoo** – manage trees on campus-like settings
- **SPU** – stormwater code, manages riparian area trees, funds planting incentives

Urban Forestry Commission

- Created in 2009 to advise the Mayor and City Council on urban forestry plans, policies, and regulations
- Composed of nine members representing different areas of expertise (i.e. wildlife biologist, hydrologist, arborist, etc.)
- Commission holds public meetings twice a month



Urban Forest Management Plan



- Created in April 2007
- Being updated in 2012
- Establishes 30% citywide canopy goal by 2037
- Long-, mid-, and short-term strategies for achieving goals
- Implemented through annual workplans
- Managed via an inter-departmental team

What's new since 2007

- **Urban Forestry Commission created in 2009**
- **Created a new, permanent position in 2011 to manage Seattle reLeaf program**
 - Outreach and engagement
 - Trees for Neighborhoods – 2,300 trees
 - Tree Ambassador – 40 in 13 neighborhoods
 - Urban Orchards Stewards – 58 in 5 orchards

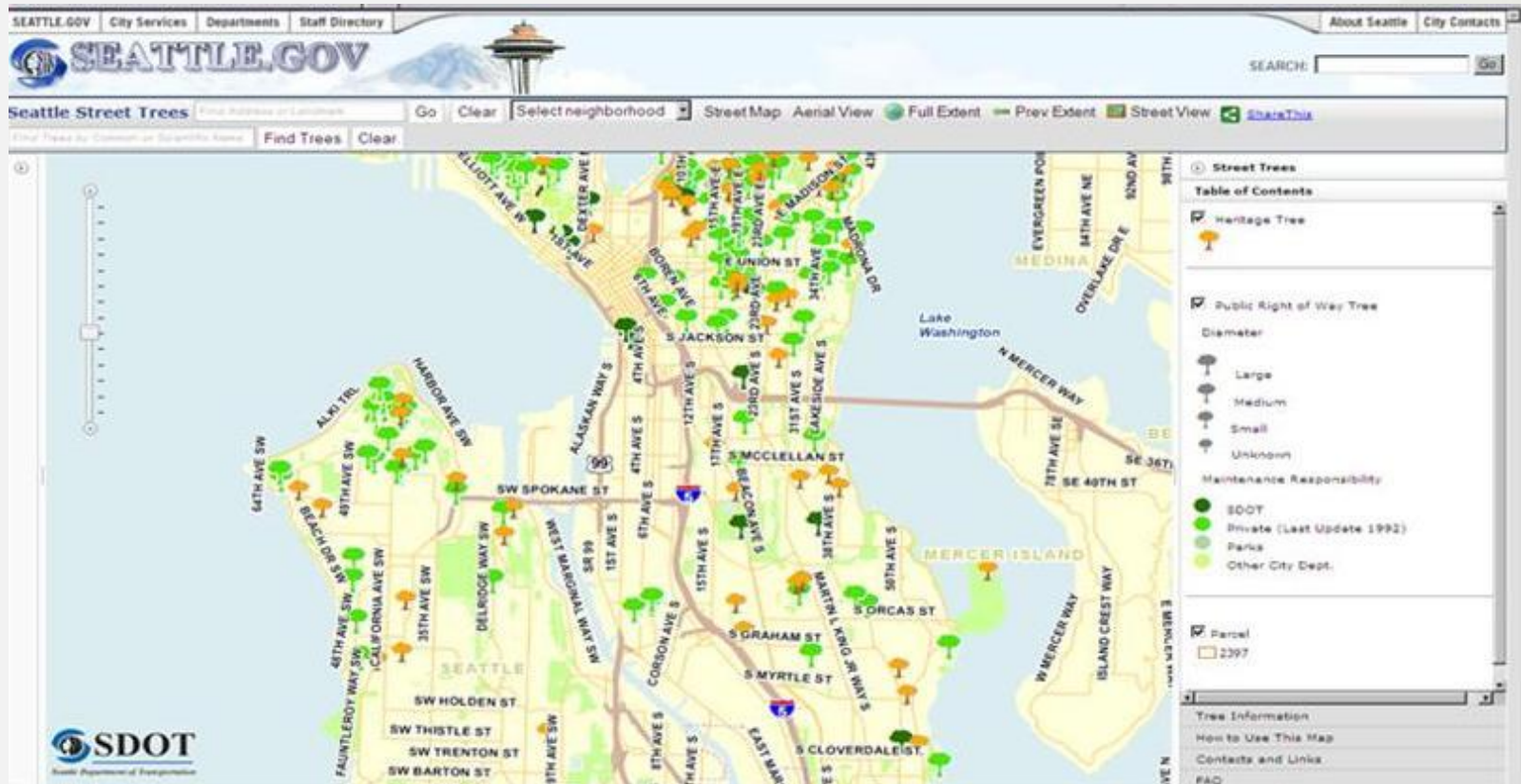


Seattle reLeaf
keep the emerald city green



What's new...

- **Seattle Department of Transportation:**
 - Street tree online map
 - Street Tree ordinance and Manual update



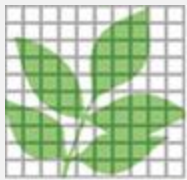
What's new...

- **Parks and Recreation Department:**
 - Green Seattle Partnership:
 - Over 700 acres in restoration
 - Over 600,000 volunteer hours
 - 120 Forest Stewards



What's new...

- **Department of Planning and Development:**
 - GreenFactor
 - Stormwater regulations and rates (with SPU)
 - Private property tree regulations update

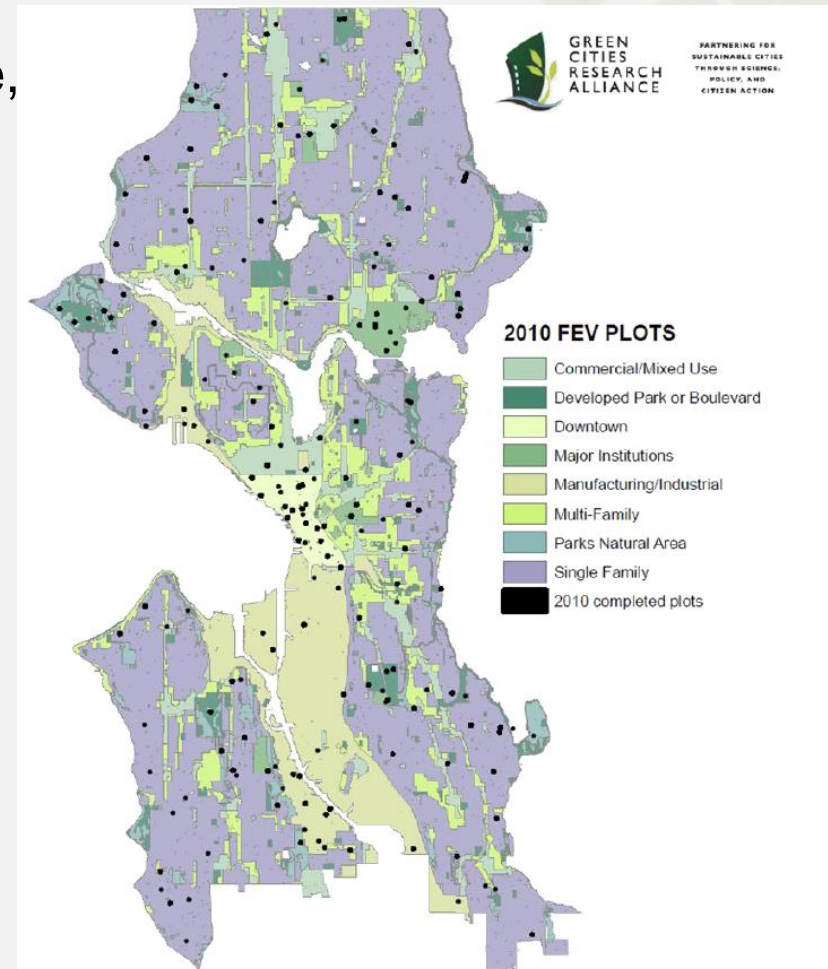


SEATTLE *green factor*



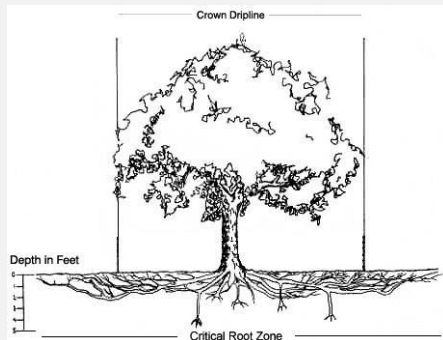
What's new...

- **iTree sampling survey**
 - UW, King County, City of Seattle, and Forterra
 - 2010/2011 data from 223 plots
 - Information included in UFMP update:
 - Condition
 - Evergreen/deciduous breakdown
 - Size
 - Invasive species



2012 Urban Forestry Efforts

- Urban Forest Management Plan update (OSE)
 - State of the urban forest
 - Unchanged goals (30% canopy cover by 2037)
- Street Tree Ordinance and Manual update (SDOT)
 - Greater protection to street trees
 - Codify current practices and procedures
- Private Property Tree Regulations update (DPD)
 - Streamline existing tree regulations
 - Mitigate development impacts



Urban Forestry Open House

August 1, 2012

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Seattle City Hall

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